

Message Text

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14

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2735

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG COMMENTS ON MEMORANDUM BY FIVE
NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES

REF: BONN 16271

1. ON OCTOBER 14 ECONMIN STATE SECRETARY SCHLECHT
ANSWERED PARLIAMENTARY QUERY AS TO HOW FRG VIEWS
MEMORANDUM FROM FIVE NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES TO EC
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COMMISSION.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ANSWER AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: FIVE NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES HAVE, IN THEIR MEMORANDUM TO THE EC COMMISSION, PROPOSED A SERIES OF MEASURES FOR DISCUSSION WHICH SEEK TO ALTER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A EUROPEAN SOLUTION, MARKET CONDITIONS IN THE PETROIEUM SECTOR, WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE ROLE OF COMPANIES SITUATED IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

THE FRG BELIEVES THAT EXPERIENCE IN RECENT YEARS MAKES VERY PLAIN THE ADVANTAGES OF AN OPEN, COMPETITION-ORIENTED ENERGY POLICY. THE EC COMMISSION, IN ITS "REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OIL COMPANIES IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1973 TO MARCH 1974", REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC DID VERY WELL WITH ITS DECISION IN FAVOR OF COMPETITION IN THE PETROLEUM SECTOR, ESPECIALLY UNDER THE VIEWPOINT OF SECURITY OF SUPPLY.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, A SERIES OF PROPOSALS IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE FIVE NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES RAISE CONSIDERABLE QUESTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH AND ABIDE BY LIST PRICES, THE CREATION OF A GLOBAL PROGRAM FOR REFINERY CONSTRUCTION AND REFINERY SHUTDOWNS, ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF SALES POINTS AND PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ADVERTISING FOR POL PRODUCTS STAND IN CONTRADICTION TO PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDE THE ECONOMIC AND ENERGY POLICIES OF THE FRG. THESE PROPOSALS WOULD CONSIDERABLY RESTRICT COMPETITION IN THE PETROLEUM FIELD, WHOSE RELATIVE ABILITY TO FUNCTION WAS POSITIVELY CITED BY THE MONOPOLY COMMISSION IN ITS TWO-YEAR REPORT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INFORMED BRUSSELS OF ITS OBJECTIONS TO ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THIS MEMORANDUM. IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY ITS WELL KNOWN VIEWPOINTS ON ENERGY AND COMPETITION POLICY.

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END QUOTE.
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